

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /160 W

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P R 121630Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4594

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIET WEEKLY ENDORSES PLO AS PALESTINIAN  
REPRESENTATIVE

1. SUMMARY. LITERARY GAZETTE REVIEW DECEMBER 12  
OF POSITION IN ME (BY IGOR BELYAYEV) ASSERTS ME  
PEACE CONFERENCE MUST DEAL WITH PLO ON PALESTINIAN  
MATTERS, AND PLO MUST DEFINE ITS POSITION ON CONCRETE  
PROPOSALS WORKED OUT DURING SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. LENGTHY SURVEY OF ME SITUATION BY AUTHORITATIVE  
SOVIET ARABIST DR. IGOR BELYAYEV (AFRICA INSTITUTE)  
REVIEWS BACKGROUND TO PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND SAYS  
PALESTINIANS HAVE OWN PALESTINIAN LIBERATION  
ORGANIZATION. ALGIERS ARAB SUMMIT REAFFIRMED PLO IS  
SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.  
"THEREFORE," SAYS BELYAYEV, "WHEN INTERESTED  
PARTIES BEGIN TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE VARIANTS FOR SOLVING  
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PALESTINIAN PROBLEM DURING THE UPCOMING POLITICAL

SETTLEMENT THEY MUST DO BUSINESS WITH POL," AND PLO MUST FORMULATE ITS POSITIONS ON CONCRETE PROPOSALS ABOUT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS WHICH MAY BE WORKED OUT IN THE PROCESS OF SETTLEMENT.

3. REMAINDER OF ARTICLE IS LENGTHY REPLAY OF PREVIOUSLY STATED SOVIET VIEWS ON ME SETTLEMENT. BELYAYEV REHASHES THEME THAT 1973 IS NOT 1967; ISRAEL IS ISOLATED: ARABS ARE UNITED; AND ME WAR DESTROYED ASSUMPTION OF ISRAELI MILITARY SUPERIORITY. HE WARNS THAT THOSE WHO PUSH ISRAELIS ON PATH OF NON-RECONCILIATION, "AMONG THEM CERTAIN AMERICAN SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN" IN PRACTICE ARE PUSHING ISRAEL TOWARD SUICIDE. ONLY SOLUTION TO ME CRISIS IS POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

4. ON TERMS OF SETTLEMENT BELYAYEV SAYS ISRAELI INTERPRETATION OF SC RES. 242 SECTION ON WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS "TO SAY THE LEAST PECULIAR". ARABS INSIST ON RETURN OF "ALL" OCCUPIED LAND. BELYAYEV ALSO REJECTS ISRAELI VIEWS ON SECURE BOUNDARIES SAYING ONLY SECURITY LIES IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS. HE THEN SAYS IF ISRAEL INTENDS TO TURN NEW PAGE IN HER HISTORY SHE MUST RECOGNIZE SHE IS ME STATE AND NOT "OUTPOST OF FREE WORLD" SURROUNDED BY HOSTILE COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: BELYAYEV ENDORSEMENT OF PLO AS PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN ME SETTLEMENT PROCESS IS FIRST SUCH PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT WE HAVE SEEN. HIS ADMONITION TO PLO TO FORMULATE CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND HIS IMPLICIT ASSUMPTION THAT PLO WILL PARTICIPATE ONLY IN LATER STAGES OF ME SETTLEMENT PROCESS ALSO LEND WEIGHT TO IDEA THAT SOVIETS HAVE URGED ARAFAT TO PURSUE PRACTICAL COURSE REGARDING ME SETTLEMENT. COMING FROM BELYAYEV, WHO MET ARAFAT DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT AND IS RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY ON ME AFFAIRS, WE BELIEVE STATEMENT ON PLO MAY BE TRIAL BALLOON MEANT TO ALLOW SOVIETS TO GAUGE REACTION TO MORE OPEN SOVIET SUPPORT OF PLO.

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**To:** STATE  
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